

THE PENNANT WINNERS

of the Wheeling Tri-State League
Team of the Season of '88

WHO DIDN'T WIN THE PENNANT.

The Reasons and Conspiring Causes that Prevented Manager Buckenberger's "East Company" from Landing in First Place—How the Team Started Out a Sure Winner and Skated Down the Slide Abroad. A Remarkable Winning Record at Home—A Review of the Cherished Hopes of the Wheeling "Fans" of the Memorable Second Season of Professional Ball in this City.

"What will the lady have?"
"The hoops, Mr. Merryman, if you please."

"All right, sir; here we are. Now a little music, gentlemen," and the clown waving his hand towards the orchestra, away speeds the premiere equestrienne followed by the admiring gaze of thousands, and the circus season is opened.

So it was in 1888 in Wheeling. What would the public have?

A pennant winning team, if you please, Mr. Buckenberger.

All right, gentlemen, I have 'em; bring on your victims. Then the umpire yelled "play ball," and the second season of Wheeling in the Tri-State league opened.

Was the team of 1888 pennant winners? They were, but they didn't win the pennant owing to many untoward circumstances and the inevitable "unexpected" that was always treading on the heels of a Wheeling team. How beautiful and roseate were the prospects, and what fond hopes were centered on that magnificent aggregation of ball players which Mr. Buckenberger had gathered around him. But alas! and slack a day! "on what slender threads hang everlasting things." When Mr. Buckenberger assumed the management he brought with him the best talent of Kalamazoo and together with Delehanty and Brodie had collected what was tacitly acknowledged on all sides at the opening of the season a covey of players that were much too fast for the rest of the league. Even Manager Moore, of the Zanesville "Kickapoo," our ancient and persistent enemy, was generous enough to admit the claim. Was it a case of too much confidence? Hardly. Only ordained fate, and hard luck, that most fickle jade of all. Some enthusiasts claimed that the "passing" of Delehanty to the Philadelphia league club was the resultant cause of our downfall; and how the "fans" did weep and tear their hair when he was sold to the Quakers. Al. Reach was the Delilah that stole into camp and sheared the locks of our Samson, who in going pulled down the temple of our strength, leaving a shiver to our bruised feelings eighteen hundred silver cart wheels. But as Kipling would say, that is another story.

Wheeling started out all right, setting the hottest kind of a pace. The exhibition games were of the most encouraging character. Although defeated four times by the strong Cleveland league team, two of the games were only won by one score. Detroit also defeated Wheeling 12 to 6. The Toronto team, of the International league, was slaughtered twice, and after losing one close game to the Buffaloes, of the same league, they shut out that fast organization in the next contest 2 to 0. The exciting cause to enthusiasm in this game was the remarkable performance of Frank Knauss, one of "Buck's" finders, giving Buffalo one lonely hit, and that a scratch. Other exhibition games were played with indifferent clubs, victory invariably perching on Wheeling's banner.

Just before the regular season opened Pittsburgh, smarting under her defeat of 1 to 0 the year before, sought to get her revenge—especially Ed Morris, the red-headed twirler who officiated in the box on that memorable occasion; he was really thirsting for gore—arranged for two exhibition games here April 5 and 6. Morris pitched in the first game, and Morrison occupied the same spot for Wheeling. The result was entirely different from that of the previous fall, Mr. Morris having a gluttonous revenge, his respiration being in the shape of keeping Wheeling down to three measly hits. Wheeling was crowned with the cypress 13 to 3. But how sweet are the uses of adversity, and how true is it that he laughs best who laughs last. The next day—not the famous occasion on which it invariably snows—Wheeling turned on the Smoked Italians, and smote them hip and thigh to the tune of 7 to 0. It was a b-e-a-u-t-i-f-u-l game. Mr. Flanagan shot cannon balls over the plate for Wheeling. The home team scored one in the first inning, and kept this lead up to the fifth. The score was tied in the sixth—2 to 2. On the eighth it stood 4 to 6 in favor of Pittsburgh. Wheeling got three men over the plate in the ninth, and blanking the visitors won the contest. Thus they quit even with their friendly neighbors, each winning two games.

Wheeling opened the regular Tri-State league season in great shape and

started on her first trip abroad leading the league. She held this place up to May 30, when three straight lost to Lima put that team in the lead, which place it occupied at the end of the season. On May 21 Delehanty played his last game with Wheeling at Kalamazoo, having been sold to Philadelphia for \$1,800. After that Wheeling started down the toboggan slide, reaching Zanesville in a terribly fractured condition. Then the cracks began to kick. Oh, the fickle public. "But yesterday the word of Czar might have poor to do him reverence." The old, old story; nothing succeeds like success, and oh how grievous are the tantrums of those who were once our worshippers. "General Disgrace" was in command of the "fans" at home, and how he did prance around in those days of deep despair. One of the sorrowful at that time wrote a requiem with a pen of anguish dipped in ink of gall:

Oh, for the hitters that used to hit,
And the sluggers that used to slug,
When they took up the bat with confidence,
And snatched the ball on the mug.
For the home run that swung with anguish
The hearts of the visiting team.
The tricky base runner and slider
Who ran like an engine of steam.

But Wheeling was destined to be able to present some very interesting arguments, despite her departure crossed with bay and returning wreathed with the mournful rue. The team ended its trip abroad at Canton, June 13, where the boasted pacemakers of the early spring were the victims of a Canton poet in the following style:

The clubs that win in the spring, 'tis true,
Very seldom stay at first place.
It's the sluggers that drop to the end of the string.
That come to the front with a swing and a wing,
'Tis true.

That win both the pennant and race.
And that's what I mean when I say or I sing.
Oh, both the clubs that win in the spring 'tis true,
'Tis true, 'tis true.

This was piling Pelion upon Ossa, but "Buck" took things in an even tempered way and proceeded to shake the boys up. On June 22 the team had pulled up to second place, and was hot on the trail for first, which she again attained later in the season. The team while playing at home had won sixteen straight games, finally falling down to Sandusky in a twelve inning contest, a record which I doubt has been equaled in any league. Again we come to another glorious Fourth of July in the history of the Wheeling team, and with our active friends the Kickapoo, of Zanesville, as our luscious nuptial, Wheeling had been strengthened by signing "Parson" Nicholson for second baseman, and recalling from his seclusion in the Maine pine barrens old reliable "Sam" Kimber, who pitched Wheeling to so many victories the season before. Knauss, Wheeling's left handed wonder, pitched in the morning game, resulting 13 to 1 in favor of the Nail City boys. In the afternoon Zanesville presented her prize beauty and star twirler Ad. Gumbert, the famous league twirler of to-day. I can well remember Gumbert, his consciousness and his confidence, as he stepped into the box adorned with a jaunty pink garb and ravishing bow on his left ear, strutting to his place in all his pride, with lordly mien, as much as to say "watch my murder Wheeling." His fall was infinitely worse than Lord Wolsey's, for he leaped itself, and oh, what a tumble, my countrymen. The score? Oh, yes, 10 to 0. There was mourning that night in the lodges of the "Kickapoo" on the banks of the fair Muskingum, for no scalp locks adorned the braves on their return home—not a single hair. Up to this time Wheeling was the only team that had not suffered a shut-out. Wheeling had again mounted her Pegasus and serenely sailed in the realms of honor in first place, but she dropped into hard lines again on July 17, losing to Lima, 8 to 7—a game that she ought not to have lost. This was the last time she ever held first position. Regrets were idle, however; it was not to be, and in coming in an easy second under the wire she fulfilled the only destiny that was left to her. Coming back home in fifth place, walking into first and holding it for the third time was as great an achievement as could have reasonably been expected after the sale of Delehanty. But, perhaps, it would have been the same for "Parson" Nicholson, than whom a better player never walked the diamond, met all the exciting demands of the cranks on second base, and was rightly dubbed the "Old Stonewall."

I cannot close without a just tribute to Mr. Buckenberger, the able manager. He was conscientious in all his work, and gentlemanly in every transaction. He gave Wheeling the best team it ever had, and which graduated three good league men—Fitcher Knauss, of Cleveland, Delehanty, of Philadelphia, and Brodie, of Baltimore. And now that he is interested in us again as the owner of Wheeling's franchise in the Interstate league, it is to be hoped that the lovers of the greatest game on earth will show their appreciation of his work by supporting the present team that will represent this city the coming season. Tears and sobs for the old, smiles and cheers for the new. J. E. D.

POSSIBLY NO BASE BALL.

Will Be Seen in Wheeling This Season. The Backers of the Club Threaten to Go Elsewhere With the Franchise Unless the Street Car Companies Give Substantial Assistance.

The street car people and the management of the Wheeling Base Ball Club have not yet come to an agreement. Manager White met the officials of the railroad company yesterday again, and in the afternoon was to have seen the management of the over-the-river road relative to getting the fences, etc., of the park out the Wheeling creek valley, back of Bridgeport, that was not torn at all last summer, in place, by the way, where the Cleveland-Wheeling game was stopped by the Belmont county authorities late in the spring. It is owned by the railroad company, and it is possible it will be secured of the park on the north end of the Island.

A gentleman who is interested in the local club said yesterday that unless the local street car companies give the club very substantial encouragement they may take the Wheeling franchise to another city where encouragement is to be had for the asking. This is something that should not be allowed to happen; Wheeling is ripe for a season of professional base ball and the owners of the franchise should not think of going elsewhere.

TRUEB'S ARROW PILLS.

The Twin City People Take Exceptions to a Statement of Facts.

The base ball "cranks" of the twin cities of Dennison and Ulrichville take exception to the statement of facts recently made in these columns, to the effect that the admission of the community into the circuit of the proposed Interstate Base Ball League would create a weak spot. One of the "cranks" occupies half a column in a Wheeling morning paper in an attempt to refute the statements made, but makes a sad failure of it. Neither the fact that the towns taken together are not one-half as populous as the smallest of the other towns on the circuit, or that the twin cities are not in a class fast enough to support a daily paper, are refuted.

The Register, in its usual bungleous way, got mixed up. That paper apouts

about "the league not taking in consideration the misrepresentation," meaning that probably Dennison will be admitted to the league, and then, immediately below, prints a dispatch from St. Louis which shows that the Interstate magnates have considered the statement of facts printed in this paper—the dispatch states that the circuit of the league has been filled, and Dennison is left out in the cold.

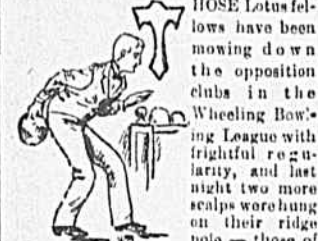
It is not hard to come across plenty of opposition to the admission of Dennison. Nearly every well informed base ball man believes that Dennison is not in the Interstate class.

IN SECOND PLACE.

Lotus Whips Pen and Pencil in Two Games and Goes up in the Race.

WHEELING LEAGUE.

Club.	Won.	Lost.	Per cent.	Score.
Nashville	12	0	1.000	907
Lotus	9	3	.750	917
Labelle	9	3	.750	924
The Brownies	9	3	.750	914
Columbus	6	6	.500	833
The Boy's	4	8	.333	870
Calumet	3	9	.250	804
Providence	2	8	.200	822
Wheeling	2	8	.200	884
Pen and Pencil	2	10	.167	888



HOSE Lotus fellows have been mowing down the opposition clubs in the Wheeling Bowling League with frightful regularity, and last night two more scalps were hung on their ridge pole—those of the Pen and Pencil combination, which club was unable to stay with the Lotus crowd in the last game set. The games took place on the Seibert alleys and were very interesting, though the first was very much one-sided.

The first frame of the first game showed the two teams about on a level, but in the second Lotus drew away and was never within hailing distance of Pen and Pencil, who were away in the rear. The feature was the big team score made by Lotus, the best of the second series. In individual work Wise, of Lotus, made the crack score, 193. The score:

Lotus—O'Neill 156, Haller 143, Hall 172, Wells 145, Weitzel 138, Wise 193; total 945.

Pen and Pencil—McMurry 159, Cassell 119, Archer 143, Zimmer 127, Handlan 166, Blind 104; total 818.

Lotus—85 175 265 367 429 525 624 717 825 945 P. and P.—82 162 231 311 383 454 550 645 741 818 In the next game Lotus was ahead in the first and second frames, but a pretty spurt by Pen and Pencil placed them at the front, where they remained until the eighth, when Lotus made another nice pull-up and held the lead to the finish, winning by a margin of fifty-two pins. O'Neill rolled high score, 179. The score:

Lotus—O'Neill 179, Haller 129, Hall 158, Wells 138, Weitzel 153, Wise 116; total 873.

Pen and Pencil—McMurry 120, Cassell 157, Archer 135, Zimmer 125, Handlan 151, Blind 133; total 821.

Lotus—95 175 251 330 412 511 597 693 789 873 P. and P.—77 162 259 352 450 556 658 759 831 The effect of the two Lotus victories is to place Lotus on a tie with Labelle and The Brownies for second place, and the admirers of the team say Lotus is going to finish second or better. Well, Lotus has made a great fight in the second series, after being first series tail-enders, and the team is sure to win if general good wishes are worth anything.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, } ss.
LUCAS COUNTY.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of E. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the city of Toledo, county and state aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of One Hundred Dollars for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1894.

A. W. GLEASON,
Notary Public.

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Baltimore & Ohio Excursion to Washington City and Baltimore, Thursday, February 14, 1895.

Round trip \$10. Tickets good returning on all regular trains until Saturday, February 23, 1895. Trains leave Wheeling at 1:45 and 5:05 a. m., and 2:30 and 5:45 p. m. Through Pullman sleeper from Wheeling on the 5:45 p. m. train.

Sir William Vernon Harcourt, chancellor of the English exchequer, is confined to his bed by a slight attack of bronchitis.



KNOWLEDGE

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Its excellence is due to its presenting in the form most acceptable and pleasant to the taste, the refreshing and truly beneficial properties of a perfect laxative; effectually cleansing the system, dispelling colds, headaches and fevers and permanently curing constipation. It has given satisfaction to millions and met with the approval of the medical profession, because it acts on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels without weakening them and it is perfectly free from every objectionable substance.

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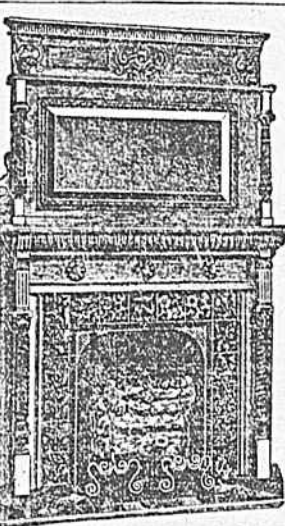
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DUCKS and DIMITIES,
SILKS and ORGANDIES,
GINGHAMS and GALATEAS.

In fact all kinds of new Wash Goods are now on our counters awaiting your inspection. Call early. It is refreshing to see something new.

GEO. R. TAYLOR.

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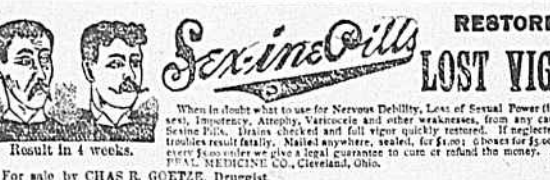
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